

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-14

DRC-01 /103 W

----- 008864

R 031518Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0085

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV LI SL

SUBJECT : GUINEAN-LIBERIAN RELATIONS

1. LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT MADE QUICK VISIT TO CONAKRY AUG 31, ARRIVING IN MORNING (BY VERY IMPRESSIVE PRIVATE JET) AND DEPARTING SAME AFTERNOON. GUINEANS LAID ON RED CARPET TREATMENT WITH FULL-SCALE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES, AND EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES BY TOLBERT AND SEKOU TOURE AT PALAIS DU PEUPLE. TWO PRESIDENTS CONFERRED PRIVATELY FOR SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, AND SEKOU TOURE HOSTED LUNCHEON. TOLBERT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN DENNIS.

2. BOTH PUBLIC SPEECHES EXTOLLED PRESENT EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBERIA AND GUINEA, AND BOTH PRESIDENTS WERE EFFUSIVE IN COMPLIMENTING EACH OTHER FOR IMPORTANT ROLES IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

3. ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF VISIT WAS THAT TOLBERT'S SPEECH INCLUDED FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN GUINEA OF GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE ON SEPT 10. TOLBERT'S SPEECH WAS BROADCAST IN FULL OVER GUINEAN RADIO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

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4. SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS THAT REAL REASON FOR VISIT WAS ATTEMPT BY TOLBERT TO INTERCEDE WITH SEKOU TOURE ON BEHALF OF SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

5. ANOTHER VERSION OF REASON FOR VISIT COMES FROM SOURCE IN PRESIDENT TOURE'S OFFICE. TOURE'S ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL INFORMED US ON SEPT 2 THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT WAS FOLLOWING UP ON SUGGESTION MADE ABOUT A YEAR AGO BY SEKOU TOURE FOR CONCLUSION OF MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT BETWEEN GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, LIBERIAN REACTION WAS ORIGINALLY NEGATIVE, BUT SOURCE CLAIMS THAT TOLBERT NOW FAVORS SOME SUCH ACCORD. SOURCE FURTHER STATES THAT GUINEA IS STILL INTERESTED IN THIS ARRANGEMENT, BUT THAT GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE IS NOW HESITANT TO MOVE AHEAD. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI MADE PRIVATE AND UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO FREETOWN ON SEPT 1 TO PURSUE MATTER. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS VERSION EITHER, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT MONROVIA AND FREETOWN CAN DEVELOP.
MACDONALD

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NNN

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